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UITS / New England Medical Center
REHABILITATION INSTITUTE

Medical Rehabilitation Research
and Training Center (Number 7)

ACCESS TO RECREATION

A Report on the National
Hearing on Recreation for
Handicapped Persons

for


Architectural and Transportation
Barriers Compliance Board

Frederick A. Fay, Ph.D.
Janet Minch, M.A.

Health, Education and Welfare
Office of Human Development
Rehabilitation Services Administration

Grant Number 16-P-57856/1-02

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R₇**TUFTS / New England Medical Center
REHABILITATION INSTITUTE****Medical Rehabilitation Research
and Training Center (Number 7)**

Ms. Arabella Martinez
Chairperson
Architectural and Transportation
Barriers Compliance Board
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Ms. Martinez:

On behalf of the staff of Tufts Rehabilitation Research and Training Center Number 7, RT-7, and the examiners and witnesses at the National Hearing on Recreation for Handicapped Persons, it is an honor to present the final report, Access to Recreation.

Last fall, twenty-two expert witnesses from around the country gathered in Boston for two days of public hearings. The witnesses presented their personal testimony and submitted written statements. Others from around the country were invited to submit written statements.

Tufts RT-7 staff and several persons with disabilities serving as consultants have contributed a great deal of time and energy to abstracting and analyzing the testimony presented at the hearings. Several major issues and recommendations emerged.

We are on the verge of greatly improved efforts to open our recreational resources to people with disabilities. Improved enforcement procedures, accessible transportation, and new combinations of recreational services and facilities will offer increased opportunities. Consumers will become increasingly involved in the planning and delivery of recreation. This new dimension in recreation and this vast expansion of opportunity will require coordinated planning and dedicated effort on the part of not only the Board but also the Executive branch of the Federal government.

I would like to convey my gratitude to you and your staff

for the personal interest that you have shown in this important hearing and in the future implementation of the recommendations. The cooperative efforts of the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board and its member agencies, recreation providers, and consumer organizations of citizens with disabilities around the country should serve to translate the report's recommendations into programs to increase access to recreation for persons with disabilities.

Respectfully submitted,

Frederick A. Fay, Ph.D.
Director of Research
Tufts RT-7

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A hearing such as this owes special thanks to many more persons than can be cited in an acknowledgment. To single out a few is not to slight the efforts of the rest but to recognize performance beyond the call of duty. The coordinating efforts of Janet Minch were key to the timely completion of the written hearing report. Without her task orientation, the project would have been significantly delayed. Kathie Poore worked diligently handling the many details leading up to and during the hearing itself. Peter Reich and Susan Gulick provided dedicated secretarial support.

Recreation providers and consumers performed key tasks. Charlie Croteau developed the abstracts, and David Parks extracted the cross examination for the report. Eric Griffin, Jon O'Connor, Charlie Croteau, Andrea Schein, and Marilyn Gloss attended the hearings as consulting staff and prepared summary reports of issues and recommendations. This same group then met with Cheryl Davis, Janet Minch, and me to identify issues for detailed analysis. Cheryl Davis and Marilyn Karlson edited the final draft, and Dennis Leger did the art work for the cover and divider sections of the report.

The Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (ATBCB) Executive Directors James Jeffers and Robert Johnson, Project Officers Louis Nau and Karen Smith, and the Public Information Officer Larry Allison provided very helpful guidance, assistance, and editing at key points in the completion of this report. ATBCB staff James Herbert and Barbara Gilley from Washington assisted with details.

Joseph Fenton, Chief of the Rehabilitation Services Administration Research and Training Centers, expedited the project funding through HEW and provided support throughout. The organizations cited under Legislative Authority, the examiners, and the witnesses themselves were integral to the success of the hearing.

Frederick A. Fay, Ph.D.
Director of Research
Tufts RT-7

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INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

Many able-bodied people do not fully understand the implications of the terms "handicapped" and "disabled." This lack of understanding is the basis of attitudinal and architectural barriers that restrict people with disabilities from enjoying opportunities available to others. Whether a person travels about in a wheelchair, uses a cane, wears thick eyeglasses, speaks with his fingers, or has heart irregularities, he has needs in common with all members of society. One of these needs is the participation in and enjoyment of recreational opportunities.

The aims of recreation are the same for able-bodied and disabled people. Personal satisfaction, pleasure from leisure activities and interests, improved health and fitness, appreciation of nature, contact with other people, and just plain fun are some of the benefits of recreation.

As citizens of our nation, disabled people should share equally in the rights to choose and to participate in recreation. Today, these rights are just beginning to be realized. Disabled consumers are becoming increasingly sophisticated in their attempts to secure services, including recreation. Providers of recreational services are also increasingly concerned about responding appropriately to the needs of disabled persons. Recent laws prescribing affirmative action, equal opportunity, nondiscrimination, accessibility, etc., for disabled persons mandate positive steps toward integrating the recreational opportunities open to both disabled and able-bodied persons.

An understanding of the recreational difficulties and opportunities of handicapped persons is important to the general public. Disabled persons constitute a large and growing minority which includes all age groups from the very young to the elderly. Some people have birth defects, many are disabled by accidents, others are temporarily handicapped during pregnancy, and all of us someday develop coordination difficulties as a result of the aging process. Disabled people cannot be understood apart from their social and economic milieu. They belong to all socio-economic classes and expect to participate in the leisure time activities common to those classes as well as in activities developed from personal interests. Not all

disabled people want or can afford long journeys to visit impressive national parks. These people need access to recreation in local areas. Thus, in order to provide appropriate recreational opportunities for all citizens, we must recognize and adapt to the individual differences.

The Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (ATBCB) held a national hearing on Recreation for Handicapped Persons in Boston, Massachusetts, on October 21 and 22, 1976. The hearing provided a forum for the exchange of opinions and knowledge among users and providers of recreation, people involved with the problems of disabled persons, and others committed to providing quality recreational opportunities for disabled people. The purpose of the hearing was to explore suggestions to improve the public's understanding of the issues and to bring about appropriate provisions for recreation for people who have disabilities.

This report contains the information provided at the national hearing. Included are abstracts of individual testimony, an analysis of the testimony, and recommendations, based on the testimony, that are essential to enhancing recreational opportunities for handicapped people. The verbatim testimony is available for review at the ATBCB office in Washington, D.C. Since the entire document is quite lengthy and bulky, this synopsis of actual presentations will be presented to the President and members of Congress and will also be available to the general public upon request. It is hoped that this report will lead to a national commitment to increasing the recreational opportunities of handicapped Americans.



MINUTE MAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK
CONCORD MA.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY FOR THIS REPORT

The Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (ATBCB) was created under Section 502 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Public Law 93-112. The Board is composed of nine Federal agencies including the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, the Department of Interior, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Labor, the Department of Defense, the General Services Administration, the Veterans Administration, and the U.S. Postal Service. Authority granted to the Board under this Act states a four-fold purpose:

- (1) to investigate and examine alternative approaches to the architectural, transportation, and attitudinal barriers confronting handicapped individuals, particularly with respect to public buildings and monuments, parks, and parklands,
- (2) to determine what measures are being taken by Federal, state, and local governments and by other public or nonprofit agencies to eliminate these barriers,
- (3) to make to the President and to the Congress such recommendations for legislation and administration as it deems necessary or desirable to eliminate these barriers,
- (4) to conduct investigations, hold public hearings, and issue orders as it deems necessary to ensure compliance.

Questions and concerns about recreation for handicapped persons have come to the Board's attention from both recreation users and providers. As disabled people are becoming more integrated into our society, they are encountering barriers to recreational facilities and opportunities just as in housing, transportation, and employment. Those who wish to provide usable recreational facilities also encounter difficulties in obtaining necessary information about specific needs of disabled persons.

For these reasons, several agencies and organizations supported and sponsored this public hearing: the ATBCB, the Department of the Interior, the National Park Service, the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, the National Recreation and Parks Association, the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, the Rehabilitation Services Administration's Special Centers Office, and the Tufts-New England Medical Center's Rehabilitation Research and Training Center Number 7.



OLD FAITHFUL IN YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

EXAMINERS AND WITNESSES

EXAMINERS AND WITNESSES

EXAMINERS

Mr. Albert C. Zapanta
(Chairman of the Hearing)
Assistant Secretary of
Administration and
Management
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C.

Mrs. Helen Hillman
Director
Programs for the Mentally
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D.C. Department of
Recreation
Washington, D.C.

Mr. David Park
Coordinator for Therapeutic
Recreation
George Washington University
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Mr. James S. Jeffers
Executive Director
Architectural and Transportation
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Washington, D.C.

WITNESSES

Mr. Douglas R. Annand
Editor and Publisher
The Wheelchair Traveler
Nashua, New Hampshire

Ms. Jacque Beechel
Interpretive Naturalist
Seattle, Washington

Dr. Frank Bowe
Executive Director
American Coalition of Citizens
with Disabilities
Washington, D.C.
(Substituted for Ms. Eunice
Fiorito, President of the
Coalition)

Mr. John H. Davis
Executive Director
National Recreation and Parks
Association
Washington, D.C.

Dr. John Driscoll
Research and Education
Specialist
Rehabilitation Services
Administration
Department of Health, Education and Welfare
Boston, Massachusetts
(Substituted for Dr. Andrew S. Adams, Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services Administration)

Ms. Ann Ford
Associate Director
National Paraplegia
Foundation
Chicago, Illinois

Mr. Benjamin Gary, Jr.
President
American Society of Landscape Architects
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Mr. James Gashel
Chief, Washington Office
National Federation of the Blind
Washington, D.C.

Mr. Paul Hippolitus
Project Officer, Committee on Recreation and Leisure
President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped
Washington, D.C.

Mr. Craig Huber
Recreation Director
United Cerebral Palsy Association of Greater Hartford
Hartford, Connecticut

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Mr. C. Wayne Korinek
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Ms. Siiothia R. Longmire
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Will-A-Way Recreation Area
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Representative
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Boston, Massachusetts

Mr. Lee Meyer
President
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Chapel Hill, North Carolina
(Substituted for Dr. Dick Stracke, past President of the National Therapeutic Recreation Society)

Dr. John A. Nesbitt
Chairman
Committee on Recreation and
Leisure
President's Committee on
Employment of the
Handicapped
Washington, D.C.

Mr. George O'Malley
Director of State Parks
National Association of
Park Directors
Denver, Colorado
(Substituted for Mr. William
C. Forrey, Director of
Pennsylvania State Parks,
who was representing
National Association of Park
Directors)

Ms. Diane S. Roupe
Executive Director
National Rehabilitation
Association
Washington, D.C.

Mr. Robert G. Stanton
Assistant Director of Park
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Mr. Julian U. Stein
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Physical Education and
Recreation
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Dr. A. Heaton Underhill
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Washington, D.C.

Mr. William K. Wight
Director of Parks and Recreation
Director of Natural Resources
Jefferson City, Missouri
(Substituted for Mr. Charles
H. Odegaard, President,
National Society for Park
Resources)



ABSTRACTS OF TESTIMONY

ABSTRACTS OF TESTIMONY

The Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board identified individuals, agencies, and groups throughout the country and sought their testimony. Those unable to attend in person were invited to submit written testimony. Prior to oral testimony in Boston, the ATBCB reviewed written statements by the groups to be represented. This process provided an opportunity for the examiners to prepare specific questions based on the testimony.

The abstracts of the testimony include both written statements and cross-examination questions. An introductory line identifies the witness, the organization and part of the country represented, and the witness's role in recreation for disabled people. This information is followed in most cases by the witness's introductory statement detailing problems encountered in seeking, planning, providing, or using recreational facilities and sites and providing suggestions for solving problems. The abstract continues with highlights of the cross-examination and the witness's concluding remarks. In the process of abstracting, the testimony was edited for clarity, but remains faithful to the intent of the witness.

Douglass R. Annand

Mr. Annand is President of the Nashua, New Hampshire, Chapter of the National Association of Physically Handicapped and is publisher and editor of The Wheelchair Traveler.

* * *

Among the many barriers faced by handicapped people, architectural barriers are the most prevalent. Since trains and buses are not accessible, transportation from the house to the park is one of the major obstacles. Individual participation is possible in such facilities as wheelchair-accessible fishing piers and campgrounds with accessible toilet facilities.

Where inaccessible buses provide transportation in parks some form of day-pass should be issued for handicapped drivers. Also, better guidebooks for parks should be made available, with more information on what is accessible. These guidebooks should also be offered in Braille.

Q: Do you have suggestions for ensuring better compliance in recreational facilities at the local, state, or national level?

A: Use a bigger whip. The only way to ensure compliance is for handicapped people to keep an eye on everything and, when they see something being built, to find out if it is accessible.

Q: Should all nature trails be made fully accessible?

A: I don't feel that every inch of every nature trail has to be wheelchair-accessible. Seventy-five or eighty percent would be acceptable.

Q: Does the word "facility" in the law apply to nature trails and everything else you find in a recreational area?

A: Any time the government spends a dollar to build something it should be wheelchair-accessible.

To sum up, I recommend that we keep our national parks

accessible to automobiles used by handicapped persons, make buildings wheelchair-accessible according to ANSI (American National Standard: Specifications for Making Buildings and Facilities Accessible to, and Usable by, the Physically Handicapped) standards, and help provide more funds for local recreational facilities for those not able to travel.

Jacque Beechel

Miss Beechel is an interpretive naturalist from Seattle, Washington.

* * *

Four things should be done on a nation wide basis:

1) educate the public about handicapped persons, 2) survey recreational facilities at national and local levels to determine what needs to be done, 3) establish committees to review development plans, and 4) provide special training for outdoor recreation/interpretation personnel.

Recreation personnel should visit local rehabilitation centers or other places where there are handicapped persons to become aware of some of the different disabilities. Further, all personnel dealing with the visiting public should at least learn simple finger-spelling to facilitate communication with deaf people. Finally, allocated funds should be increased in recreation and interpretation. Without such an increase all efforts will be less than successful.

Q: Would you briefly give us the definition of interpretation?

A: Interpretation is the communication of information about our natural, cultural, historical, human, and scientific heritage. The main purpose is to promote a better understanding of our resources and help a person develop new interests and further investigate the subjects.

Q: How did you become a specialist in the field of interpretation for handicapped people?

A: I contacted the directors of local rehabilitation centers and arranged to be around people with various handicaps during

part of their living process. Such exposure puts you more at ease and therefore more able to serve their needs.

Q: What would you suggest as an approach to get people trained in recreational interpretation and in understanding handicapped people?

A: I suggest in-service training. Arrange with local organizations of handicapped persons and with rehabilitation centers to have personnel from the local outdoor recreational areas take several days to go through rehabilitation facilities, to meet the people, and to learn ways of accommodating their handicaps.

Q: Is there much that needs to be done to make interpretation accessible?

A: There is not much that needs to be done differently. To accommodate a person in a wheelchair, you provide the same information as for anyone else. You simply make sure the information is provided at the eye level of a person sitting in a wheelchair. For a blind person, you provide the information audibly. For a mentally retarded person, you may need more personnel. For a deaf person, you must have someone who can use sign language or at least do some finger-spelling. None of these are massive changes.

Frank Bowe

Dr. Bowe, Director of the American Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities, Washington, D.C., delivered testimony on behalf of Ms. Eunice Fiorito, President of the Coalition.

* * *

The organization of which I am director is dedicated to enhancing the human and civil rights of disabled people. The elimination of architectural, transportation, and attitudinal barriers with which the ATBCB is concerned is vital to the human and civil rights of America's disabled people. Many of the problems of disabled people stem from a lack of administrative coordination. Over the past two years, there have been strong authorizations and appropriations from the Congress specifically for the ATBCB. Yet, much of this money has been withheld by the administration, and I wish to go on record today urging the administration to release the funds so that the Board

may continue to do the kind of job that has to be done.

Lack of proper consumer involvement and adequate information also hamper progress. Each program should, therefore, involve local consumers in the planning, execution, and evaluation of its efforts. The Coalition is very willing to conduct the training necessary to help disabled people themselves become involved in the compliance and enforcement of the law. We would be very happy to do that not only for the Board, but also for the Department of the Interior and for any other agency with insufficient staff and, therefore, an inability to afford compliance with the law.

My other recommendations include: 1) additional research on the question of how recreational participation impinges upon independent living and vocational success, 2) the development of public policy in the area of recreation for disabled Americans, 3) the establishment of a national consumer provider council, the purpose of which would be to disseminate information, conduct research as needed, and enforce compliance.

Q: Do you feel that the Coalition is heading towards a unified consumer approach that those of us in government might look to?

A: One of my central objectives at the Coalition is to help disabled people understand that no matter what their disability, what they want are basic human and civil rights. They want better education; they want rehabilitation; they want enjoyment; they want recreation; they want self-determination; they want to be able to integrate into society to the extent they find comfortable. These are basic human needs, and they are similar despite different disabilities.

Q: Can the Coalition act as a compliance officer in connection with recreational facilities?

A: I think what we need to do is to go to the local level. When you're going to design a program, say to yourself: "Everybody in this community is going to be using this program. Let's involve them from the start. Let's ask the people on the local level what they want, and let's include disabled people when we do that."

The opposite of that is happening today. I think if you would involve consumers from the outset on advisory boards, on boards of trustees, in employment, and you start from the

beginning and build up that way, it could create a climate in which you would have America becoming accessible to all disabled Americans.

Q: How do you accomplish this? Does the recreation provider have to reach out to the consumer or is the consumer going to reach out to the recreation provider?

A: I think that's where the Coalition can help. I want to go out and teach disabled people how to go in to talk to administrators. I think the Coalition can bring these people together so that we can put consumer involvement to work on a local level, state level, regional level, and national level. It is a central concern of the Coalition to develop the skills of disabled individuals throughout the nation so that they will be able and ready to be involved in an efficient and effective manner.

John H. Davis

Mr. Davis is Executive Director of the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA), Washington, D.C..

* * *

Historically, handicapped people have been knowingly or otherwise excluded from participation in park and recreational services available to the general public. This exclusion has resulted from both attitudinal and architectural barriers. Some of the attitudinal barriers have included: 1) the fear that disabled and handicapped persons would "offend" or embarrass the "normal" population; 2) the concern that "normal" users would be inhibited from using facilities by these fears and that programs and facilities would suffer; 3) the belief that handicapped citizens would not be able to benefit from (or would not require) participation in recreational and leisure pursuits; 4) the fear that handicapped persons may incur injury or cause injury to others, ultimately resulting in legal action.

In order for handicapped people to become totally integrated into society, we must reach out and involve them in all

aspects of community life, and we must begin to sensitize the people who will work with them. NRPA should also take an aggressive role in sensitizing park personnel to architectural barriers. In addition, the NRPA must continue to monitor and support legislation that is beneficial to the needs of all people including disabled persons.

Q: Has NRPA been involved in curriculum development, and is this an area that might be pursued in attempting to put forth a different concept of the recreational needs of disabled individuals?

A: NRPA is already supporting curriculum development and has influenced the establishment of curricula that emphasize the importance of serving ill and handicapped people. It is something that we should give more emphasis to in the future.

After a student has majored in parks and recreation, he should be ready to work in the park and recreation field generally, completely endowed with a commitment to serve the needs of handicapped as well as so-called normal persons.

Q: What is the role of an organization like NRPA in promoting the enforcement of legislation on curriculum development?

A: I don't think NRPA is in a position to "slap the wrist" of its constituent members; however, I would mention again that NRPA has a distinct role to play in educating and sensitizing our people and unofficially chiding them for acting in a way that we think is irresponsible.

Q: Is something like accessibility an ethical issue for a professional association?

A: Dictating ethics in every little thing would be like breaking faith with the people you are trying to influence, but I think a general statement of ethics should be that the park and recreation profession is dedicated and has a responsibility to try to meet the leisure needs of people wherever they are, regardless of color, sex, health, sight, skill, or whatever.

John Driscoll

Dr. Driscoll, a research and education specialist with the Rehabilitation Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare in Boston, submitted a statement for Dr. Andrew S. Adams, Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration, Washington, D.C.

* * *

The Rehabilitation Services Administration has been for many years an advocate of expanding recreational opportunities for handicapped people. It has opposed unnecessary segregation of handicapped persons.

When a comprehensive service-needs study was conducted, environmental barriers were reported to have a serious effect upon the lives of severely disabled individuals. Transportation was reported as the single most difficult service to obtain.

Q: Would a state agency be able to subsidize a student's recreational pursuits if he or she participates in activities such as wheelchair sports; if he or she is pursuing a vocational goal and has been accepted as a client?

A: That would be an adjunct.

Q: Could you discuss why the training programs in recreation have decreased from ten in 1967 to two at the present time?

A: In 1971 and 1972, all of our training programs were reduced 50 percent; we were then told that they would be reduced to zero the following year. This had a deleterious effect on all efforts for long-term and short-term in-service training programs. At the present time, the wheel is beginning to move toward more training programs, but it will take some time before these programs have reached the stature they had before.

Q: Could you comment on Dr. Adams' statement that severely disabled persons are not receiving certain recreational services?

A: Of the 300 persons surveyed in the comprehensive medical centers, 25.4 percent said needed recreational services were not provided. That means they have no recreational therapists. Hospitals like the Rehabilitation Institute of Tufts-New England Medical Center and University Hospital, Boston University use a team approach to cover all phases of rehabilitation. One hopes that these centers, which have national focus, will be models and their approach will spread to other hospitals in our nation.

Ann Ford

Ms. Ford is Associate Director of the National Paraplegia Foundation (NPF), Chicago, Illinois.

* * *

When considering recreation for handicapped persons, one should remember they share the same motivations in life that able-bodied persons experience: education, professions, human relationships, family involvement, politics, recreation, etc. to fulfill personal desires. Presently, one of every ten American citizens has a mobility-limiting disability, but it is possible that every person can expect to be physically handicapped, either temporarily or permanently, in his lifetime. Better medical care resulting in increased longevity assures us of this possibility. Yet, much of our environment is man-made and created inaccessible.

Camping, a particularly popular form of recreation today, could become more accessible through architectural design standards for paths of travel, facility entrances, and conveniences such as restrooms, drinking fountains, telephones, and camp-site areas. Use of available design standards and guidelines will in fact be designing for everyone, handicapped and able-bodied people alike.

Q: The comment has been made that some recreation agencies have accessible facilities but handicapped people don't use them. Do you have any suggestions why this might be so?

A: Accessible facilities would be better utilized if they were

more widely publicized. Many handicapped persons become aware of accessible facilities through consumer publications. Our organization has a guidebook publication. We publish any information of that type that comes in to us, as do most of our chapters.

Q: Would your organization support making all facilities accessible, or would your organization prefer special recreation facilities for wheelchair users?

A: We would not advocate special recreational facilities. To the extent possible, we would like to see public facilities made accessible. In some instances, this is not feasible, but I think there are usually alternatives, such as the all-terrain vehicle. Research needs to be done in that area, for instance, finding out what could be used as an alternative if a wheelchair can't maneuver a given trail.

Q: If we have an area that has twenty-five campsites on it, should all of those twenty-five campsites be accessible or should just two or three be accessible?

A: I wouldn't see the need for all campsites to be accessible. I think a fair percentage would be adequate.

Q: Are there any existing standards for campsites for people with special needs?

A: Some standards are listed in the booklet Barrier-Free Site Design.

In closing, I would like to say that it is not my crutches and braces that present a barrier to my mobility, it is, rather, the environment that I must negotiate with my crutches and braces that is the barrier to my mobility.

Benjamin Gary, Jr.

Mr. Gary is President of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), Cambridge, Massachusetts.

* * *

All recreation areas should be made accessible to all Americans in such a way as to make all people using them feel normal and inconspicuous. Research is needed to develop design guidelines that can be adopted and followed by both public and private organizations.

Q: What role can and does an organization like ASLA plan in educating its members to use the knowledge that is available regarding accessibility?

A: We know that some of our own members are not aware of the necessary standards, and we have tried through publications to educate them. We have also conducted seminars around the country to discuss guidelines and standards.

Q: What kind of research is needed in the area of accessibility design?

A: A lot of research has been done across the country by various groups and agencies. The problem seems to be in bringing this information together, synthesizing it, then printing it in a distributable fashion.

Another thing that must be done is to get information from therapists and handicapped people about what they feel is lacking in the parks.

Q: What has ASLA done to promote disabled individuals entering the profession of landscape architecture?

A: One of the programs that we have worked on assiduously is minority hiring. We have not had a program to encourage handicapped people, but I think this is something that we really should consider.

James Gashel

Mr. Gashel is Chief of the Washington Office of the National Federation of the Blind.

* * *

During the 1940s, blind citizens of this nation became

organized for collective action and self-expression. Traditionally, they were not regarded as competent to speak for themselves or attest to their own needs. Agencies serving them have occupied the role of spokesman and have sought to dominate the sphere of executive policymaking, but blind people and their organization, the National Federation of the Blind, are determined to put an end to such domination.

When attempting to meet their needs and desires for recreation, blind people often find themselves handicapped, not so much by their own lack of eyesight, but more by lack of insight on the part of those who establish, control, and supervise recreational programs. Despite the talk of including all citizens in both public and private programs, the trend, for blind people at least, has been in the nature of "separate but equal" (or, perhaps, "comparable").

Blind people view with some alarm the advancing trend toward "Braille trails" and "fragrance gardens" for them. Such facilities are predicated on the philosophy that they are not capable of enjoying nature fully as it is. This philosophy confronts them in employment, housing, transportation, social interchange, and recreation. The real barriers for blind people are not architectural, they are attitudinal. There are few if any specific design features needed to enable blind people to use facilities.

In reorienting community-based recreational programs and activities, those responsible should resist the temptation to establish special facilities and classes for blind people. Rather, the approach should be more one of outreach and recruitment of blind people, encouraging and stimulating them to participate fully in programs available to all.

Q: Is it true that few blind people read Braille?

A: I think that is true, and I would encourage programs that emphasize recorded announcements.

Q: How do you create awareness to get blind people into facilities?

A: Affirmative action and civil rights programs have led to some kind of enforcement. If we could deal with these issues publicly and with a lot of publicity so that people know what's going on, more and more people will think about inclusion. If a park or a swimming pool is restrictive, then that ought to be dealt with publicly so that people know about it.

Q: How many facilities should be made accessible to handicapped people, all of them or some of them?

A: As far as we are concerned, they all ought to be made accessible to us. We don't think that entails any cost. We think that just entails a new way of thinking, but we certainly do support the notion of making all facilities accessible. Another way to encourage handicapped people to take increased advantage of recreational programs is to recruit them into the expanding recreational profession.

In summary, it has been said that "the road of blind people to inferior status and second class-citizenship has too often been paved with the good intentions of others."

Craig Huber

Mr. Huber is Recreation Director of the United Cerebral Palsy Association (UCPA) of Greater Hartford, Connecticut.

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There are four major problems facing handicapped people in the area of recreation: 1) inaccessibility of facilities and transportation, 2) public attitude, 3) the failure of recreation professionals to be ambitious in creating programs, and 4) the failure of politicians to commit themselves fully and to follow through.

Recommended are the following: 1) compliance boards, based on the ATBCB model, should be established on a statewide level and should monitor both state and local recreational facilities and parks, 2) disabled recreation leaders should be employed by recreation departments, and 3) facilities that are accessible to handicapped people should advertise that fact.

Q: Should all nature trails be made accessible to everyone or just some of them?

A: If you build trails that are accessible or if you build trails with different degrees of difficulty, perhaps you could mark them. This is done with ski slopes, which are marked easy,

more difficult, most difficult. We don't expect a beginner to ski the most difficult slopes. As a concept, this gradation works effectively to enable the participant to choose according to his ability.

Q: Do you have any suggestions of where you might draw the line as to which ones you would make accessible and which ones you would not make accessible?

A: That brings up the point of how much you want to give to somebody and how much they want to earn. I don't think we can give everything to everybody. I think you can't make a uniform specification for each facility.

Society must provide, preserve, and protect the means whereby handicapped people can obtain the rights of first-class citizenship from earliest infancy throughout life.

Owen T. Jamison

Mr. Jamison is Assistant Director of Recreation Management, U.S. Forest Service, Washington, D.C.

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The Forest Service provides a broad spectrum of outdoor recreational opportunities with a capacity for over 1.35 million people at one time in developed recreational sites. In the early 1960s, the Forest Service began developing highly specialized recreational facilities for handicapped people, such as the Roaring Fork Braille Trail, Mammoth Lakes Campground, and Trout Pond Recreation Area. User feedback was instrumental in changing this approach. We learned that handicapped people wish to be included in the mainstream of life, without an inordinate amount of special or separate facilities and programs. Therefore, a better solution to providing recreational opportunities for all people is to eliminate physical barriers which prevent use and enjoyment of the outdoors.

Our experiences also taught us some useful planning information: blind participants like challenges in trails, opportunities to listen to moving water, and guide ropes along trails; grades of trails for use by people in wheelchairs should be relatively level and have a hard surface; and recorded messages

provide a very effective means of communication for driving tours as well as for walking tours.

Q: Do you have any statistics on the use of the Mammoth Lake or Trout Pond areas, which were designed exclusively for handicapped people?

A: We have indications that they are being used about like other areas. The Mammoth Lakes facility, I believe, is used at about thirty-five percent of absolute capacity, and Trout Pond at about fifty percent.

Q: Could you please tell us what means you have used to solicit feedback from handicapped users?

A: One is that the National Environmental and Policy Act procedures have built in feedback mechanisms. We make known what we plan to do, and then the public can feed back their reactions to us. We are required to, and do, use this procedure on all major recreational areas. We question handicapped people and other people, and we try to listen to what the people are saying at all times. This is our best means of getting information.

Q: Does the Forest Service have any suggestions on how to design trails that would be suitable for both the blind and wheelchair users?

A: I think that you have to look at the number of people who are going to use the facility, whether they be physically fit, handicapped, or blind, and then build the facility so it will best meet their needs. We would have a trail that would be usable by the majority of people, but then we would try to design a loop or something specially for handicapped people and others who need something special.

Q: Can you tell us some of the exact cost statistics of the Forest Service in designing accessible facilities?

A: We don't have exact statistics, but the studies that we have done show that the cost of making facilities accessible is small if the planning is incorporated in the conceptual stage, perhaps one percent or not much more than one percent added to the cost would be required to build in accessibility.

Q: Has the Forest Service ever encouraged any research specifically on the recreational needs of and designs for handicapped people?

A: No, we haven't. Although we do have the largest comprehensive recreational research program, it is still small. The budget for our research unit is about \$1.5 million. We have fifteen to twenty research man-years currently available. Our first priority is wilderness management; second priority is landscape management; third priority is general outdoor recreation--that is where research for the handicapped would fall. We know handicapped people are very important, and we think there is a body of information available that we can use. Any of our research is available to all recreation users and to any public or private outfit. As we are able to work it into our priorities, we will be doing research on recreation for handicapped users. Handicapped people wish to be included in the mainstream of life, without an inordinate number of special or separate facilities and programs.

C. Wayne Korinek

Mr. Korinek is Recreational Superintendent of the Parks and Recreation Department, Phoenix, Arizona.

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There is a need to remove architectural barriers, as well as a need to develop recreational planning standards for all parks. All recreation majors should be required to have orientation and exposure to disabled people in order to increase their awareness of the needs of handicapped persons; it should not be left to a few "experts". Students in the fields of architecture, transportation, and education need to receive this kind of exposure. Recreation professionals should also receive training and educational information regarding disabled people.

Q: What kind of procedures do you have in the State of Arizona to ensure that facilities such as yours comply with the law?

A: The only checks and balance system we have is working through our engineering department with architects to ensure

that designs and specifications comply with state law. Our problems seem to lie with landscape architects when they are designing park and recreational facilities. Not only does the administration seem to lack knowledge, but also the landscape architects and the practitioners themselves do not know what needs exist.

Q: Do you have any procedures or processes that involve consumers in the development of your recreation planning?

A: Normally, the planning process involves the citizenry extensively. When we design a new facility, we use all means available--media, literature in the schools, whatever--to publicize that we have acquired a certain parcel of property and are in the process of beginning development. Everybody interested in providing suggestions to the design of that park has an opportunity to do so. Everyone can give ideas as to what they would like incorporated into "their" park. Special populations are encouraged to participate.

Siothia R. Longmire

Ms. Longmire is Administrator of Will-A-Way Recreation Area for handicapped people, Fort Yargo State Park, Winder, Georgia.

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Ms. Longmire showed a complete slide presentation of Will-A-Way recreational facilities. She discussed design materials that facilitate accessibility and programming areas for handicapped people.

After the completion of Will-A-Way campgrounds, one of the major problems was educating handicapped people about the availability and use of the facility. There is now a waiting list for the facility, and the participants have been most enthusiastic.

Q: Have you found that the use of the facility has justified the expenditure of funds to construct it?

A: Yes. This past year we served twenty thousand people. The

use of the facility has amply justified the expenditure of construction funds. The facility cost was somewhat over \$1 million, a cost comparable to other facilities.

Q: You mention all the marvelous success you have had, but I would also like to know if you could share some of the failures with us so we could learn.

A: One of the failures is the swimming pool area. We designed it to be a standard thirty-by-sixty foot swimming pool, two to ten feet deep. We would leave the wheelchair ramp area in it, but we would redesign it to go from two to four feet and put in a separate diving area so that it would be more functional. Most of the groups using the pool area are non-swimmers and use the shallow water. We would probably also question the day-use area.

Q: Do you recommend that each state have a camp such as Will-A-Way or do you feel that accessibility to all the facilities would be a better solution to increasing the use by handicapped people?

A: I recommend a special camp, but I also feel that all state park facilities should be accessible to some extent.

Q: Is there anything different about this campsite that would be inappropriate for any kind of camp or park facility for everyone?

A: Nothing. The only extra cost is the spacing.

Q: If you were planning it again or planning another facility, would you still design it as a separate facility?

A: At this point I would want to study that a little closer. Some of our users would argue the point with us. Of course we hear both sides, but the majority of the users tell us that there is nowhere else they can go camping; if you look at it from a state park standpoint, if they were using any other group camp facility in any state park, they would be segregated.

Q: What kinds of efforts are made to disseminate the benefits of what you have done?

A: We have had something like thirty or thirty-six different

state agencies across the country request information or visit the facility. We are delighted to share with them the things in the facility that are successful, the things that are questionable, and work with them in any way we can to help increase their knowledge of design.

Robert Lynch

Mr. Lynch, representing the American Institute of Architects (AIA) as a member of their Barrier-Free Task Force, is an architect from Boston.

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Architects are the key professionals to ensure accessibility, and AIA recognizes the right of all citizens to be integrated into society through accessibility.

Recreation for handicapped people is not only desirable, but also necessary. Handicapped people need recreation to develop their physical strength for mobility and for general well-being. This conviction is based on observation and personal experience.

The Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board should have the ability not only to regulate new construction but also to institute a program of renovating existing buildings on a voluntary basis. Handicapped people who know the federal regulations could also be used to make on-site evaluations.

Q: Does the AIA feel that accessibility is appropriate as an ethical issue and is it included in the AIA's code of ethics?

A: The problem has always been identified as "architectural" barriers, not because the architects have been at fault so much as that the nature of the problem is architectural. The AIA is officially committed, and has been since 1958, to bringing about the ANSI standards to resolve the problem. I and several others are wholeheartedly committed to this, as is the AIA officially in policy. The architects are the designers of the environment, and they have an obligation to fit it to the needs of the people who use it.

Q: Are owners of those facilities built prior to the issuance of regulations required to renovate them so that they will be accessible?

A: The answer is simply no, and no matter how a facility is funded, we cannot force people to make it accessible until and unless they spend some additional monies to remodel or add to it. Whenever facilities are built, they should be made or be remade into accessible facilities.

Phillip Mayfield

Mr. Mayfield, representing the National Easter Seal Society, is a real estate developer from Boston.

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Recreation should be viewed in the broadest context. Too often facilities that do not allow access and use by disabled people relegate them to the role of second-class citizens. Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act is clear in its intention that such discriminatory practices must be eliminated. Our recreational planning and opportunities must, therefore, involve disabled persons as participants, not merely as spectators. Further, appropriate architectural designs will provide opportunities for a greater percentage of the population, including those in this country who are handicapped.

The following guidelines should be promoted in the planning and management of all cultural and recreational facilities.

- 1) All publicly funded recreational facilities, including indoor facilities such as sports arenas, theaters, and concert halls, should be accessible to the maximum number of people.
- 2) All outdoor areas, such as parks, scenic spots, etc., should be planned and operated to permit disabled people to participate. Paths of travel, for example, could be better designed. Field houses, Port-a-johns, benches, and picnic tables ought to be redesigned to permit use by disabled people. Rest stops at more frequent intervals could be planned.
- 3) Transportation for disabled people at recreational areas is necessary.
- 4) Incentive programs should be designed not only to motivate interagency cooperation, but also to assist private entrepreneurs to follow the agencies. Potential buyer markets for services for handicapped people and the commercial value of accessible buildings and facilities should be researched.

Q: Would the National Easter Seal Society be willing to cooperate with the Board in a national public awareness campaign regarding the recreational needs of handicapped people?

A: Yes, Easter Seals is not just interested in the dissemination of information, but is also concerned with the implementation of the standards themselves.

Q: Does your organization have any type of accessibility checklists of public buildings and facilities?

A: I don't have a working knowledge of the work each of our independent state societies is doing. I do know one state society checked extensively for compliance to P.L. 90-480 a few years ago. In Massachusetts, we are currently monitoring our regulation through inspections. Along the Freedom Trail in Boston, we went literally door to door and inspected everything. We then established a system of working with the proprietors of those historical sites to encourage accessibility changes.

A second thing that we have done is to establish local committees to inspect public facilities in their communities and to recommend to our Society ways and means of bringing the attention of local authorities to barriers and their elimination.

A great deal of descriptive information on accessibility has been published in guidebooks to facilities in various cities.

Q: In your opinion, how much of an outdoor recreational area should be made accessible to handicapped people?

A: It may not be feasible to carry out a hundred percent accessibility, but I don't believe that it would be appropriate for a public regulatory board or agency like yours or a society like ours to take anything other than the hundred percent position.

We recognize the enjoyment of sports events or just a walk in a national forest. This can be made possible for all through a series of small steps. However, a single barrier on any one of these small steps, and some cannot enjoy the event at all.

Lee Meyer

Mr. Meyer is President of the National Therapeutic Recreation Society (NTRS), Chapel Hill, North Carolina. He spoke for Mr. Dick Stracke, the past President of the NTRS.

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Some real problems are often raised in attempting to accommodate handicapped persons: architectural barriers, enforcement of laws, attitudinal barriers, and, most important, the problem of segregation versus integration.

We recommend that: 1) public education be done to help break down barriers, 2) enforcement of existing laws covering accessibility be improved, 3) handicapped individuals be involved in all levels of government and private community planning, 4) all existing facilities be programmed with handicapped persons in mind, and 5) there should be at least one approach route to each attraction that can be negotiated by a handicapped person.

Q: What is the NTRS doing to bring about awareness and understanding of the recreational needs of handicapped persons?

A: In the Therapeutic Recreation Journal, we have carried numerous articles regarding architectural barriers, thus sensitizing our members to the need for a barrier-free environment. Materials in our newsletter inform members where they can acquire information on barrier-free environments. Perhaps most importantly, we have built into our curriculum guidelines mandating that students acquire competence in areas of program services and facility development that are accessible to handicapped people.

Q: Is there an increased awareness of the needs of handicapped people by the public recreation movement?

A: Yes, but I feel that more could be done. Professional sensitivity has to become specific and be backed up with more knowledge and expertise.

Q: Can you tell us about the status of professionally trained personnel and the

training programs that are available in the country? In general, what are their primary training foci related to recreation for handicapped persons?

A: The training programs primarily focus on preparing therapeutic recreation personnel to deliver recreational services. There are two types of services: programmatic services (organized activities for individuals and groups), and facility development services. This latter focus needs further attention to bring about barrier-free facility development. Some effort has been made to recruit disabled people into the recreation profession; to date few have entered the field.

The NTRS strongly urges that added funds be provided for the development, planning, and carrying out of recreational activities for handicapped individuals.

John A. Nesbitt
and
Paul Hippolitus

Dr. Nesbitt is Chairman of the Committee on Recreation and Leisure for the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped (PCEH), Washington, D.C. Mr. Hippolitus is Project Officer of PCEH's Committee on Recreation and Leisure.

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Presently, recreational and park opportunities are too few for our nation's handicapped population. In our Committee's work to increase employment and participation opportunities for handicapped people in recreation and leisure fields, we have heard most of the excuses and they are inadequate for several reasons.

The first reason is the failure on the part of the recreational and park service providers fully to comprehend or accept their responsibility to provide routinely for the needs of handicapped people in everyday programming. We would respond to this neglect by recalling that public programs must be accessible to all the public, including the handicapped public.

The second reason is a concern that it is not cost-effective

to program for handicapped people. Legally, this excuse is moot. Service to handicapped individuals is mandated by law (Public Law 90-480 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973). Nevertheless, our experience has demonstrated that design features for accessibility accounts for one percent or less of a total building cost. Compare that fact with service to ten percent of the population which would not be served without the features.

The third reason is a lack of specific accessibility data. This is no excuse to deny service since accessibility specifications have been available since 1961. It is the responsibility of each agency's designers to translate basic accessibility data for each project.

The last reason is the providers' quest to identify specific activities, locations, and facilities where handicapped persons should be included. This precipitates a search for user data which, in turn, reinforces the providers' belief that handicapped people don't show up. Many factors come into play here: transportation, a dislike for segregated facilities and activities, a diversity of interests in recreation on the part of handicapped individuals, and a generally low level of understanding of recreation's importance to their lives. The remedy is to develop outreach efforts by the recreational service provider to help educate and encourage handicapped people to seek out recreational opportunities.

Q: How can the communications gap be bridged between providers of services and advocates of full accessibility?

A: There is no alternative to total accessibility to all facilities. Providing accommodations accessible to handicapped persons is absolutely no inconvenience to able-bodied persons. I can think of no cogent reason not to fully implement accessibility. It seems to me that it's merely a matter of compliance with the law.

Q: Even to the point of withholding funds when someone doesn't comply?

A: I think that is one of the strategies involved--that or whatever appropriate means are necessary to achieve compliance with the law.

Q: What kind of response did the President's Committee get on the interpretation of the

architectural barriers law relative to recreational facilities?

A: The information we got was that recreational facilities and buildings very clearly fall within the purview of the law. The question comes when we talk about fishing piers, some smaller kinds of facilities, or those that aren't traditionally considered facilities, but these clearly do fall under the law.

Q: What kinds of check points, requirements, and information might be useful to incorporate into the compliance system to ensure that recreational facilities are, in fact, accessible?

A: Part of the answer is more commitment from administrators that filters down to the people who do the daily checks on the construction of buildings and facilities.

Another part is a sign-off procedure that fixes the responsibility for someone to sign off a facility as barrier-free. If it turns out not to be so, then you know where the source of the trouble is. If someone knows he has to sign a clause at the end of a contract, I think compliance would become much more consistent.

George O'Malley

Mr. O'Malley is Director of State Parks for Colorado. William C. Forrey is Director of State Parks for Pennsylvania, representing the National Association of Park Directors. Mr. Forrey's statement was submitted by Mr. O'Malley, who added further commentary.

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One area in need of attention is getting handicapped people out to use the facilities. Many do not know about the opportunities or are still reluctant to use the recreational facilities.

In addition to providing for their needs in new construction, thousands of existing areas must also be altered to provide enjoyable recreational experiences for handicapped people.

A program of encouragement and support should accompany the mandated requirements as legislated by various states, and attention should be directed to existing parks as rehabilitation, expansions, and modernizing projects are undertaken.

There is also a need for more sensitivity or knowledge of how to better serve handicapped people.

A: How do you see this whole area of accessibility to handicapped people in the park system?

A: The availability of more special buses or vehicles to accommodate the special needs of handicapped people and more awareness on the part of handicapped people as to what is available in the parks would be a real help in making the areas more accessible.

Q: Have you implemented or considered an educational process for your own employees relative to handicapped people who visit the parks?

A: We've explored it, and it is a part of our training of all employees, but I don't think that we have involved ourselves to the depth that we could or should. I am concerned about our lack of really accurate information or knowledge as to how to train for special needs and how handicapped people want to be treated.

Q: Has the National Association of Park Directors formalized a policy with respect to the recreational needs of handicapped individuals, and are there any programs to disseminate this policy?

A: We do have a statement on enhancing the park and recreational facilities to accommodate handicapped people. We give lip service to the whole idea, but I question how effective it is.

Q: Is there a mechanism among state park directors to share innovative approaches to accessibility that may have occurred in one particular state or another?

A: Yes, there is, but it is not just state park directors who are involved. There is the National Park Service and the

National Society for Park Resources that publish Trends, Grist, and Design.

When it comes to architectural engineering problems, we have quite a bit of active participation and reaction among ourselves. But when it comes to exciting the handicapped public and integrating them with other recreational users so that we all feel natural with one another and the facilities accommodate both equally without too much expense being involved unnecessarily, I think that's our weakness.

Q: Does your organization have any suggestions or opinions on where wilderness areas end and facilities begin?

A: There is no real restriction as far as we're concerned as to how a handicapped person uses our facilities. It's up to his own limitations as to what obstacles he thinks he can or cannot surmount.

From a practical point of view I do not believe that we can make all recreational facilities in the wilderness or natural areas available to all handicapped people without a supreme effort on their part.

Q: In your interpretation of the architectural barriers law, are you required to make a nature trail accessible when you build one in a park?

A: As I understand it, the law is restricted to the physical things that we build--like a building, a sanitary facility, anything that a handicapped person has to use. He has a choice when it comes to using a nature trail that Mother Nature put in with grades up to forty percent. There is no way we can physically change an area and still give him the same experience.

Some decision should be made as to whether nature trails come under the law.

Diane S. Roupe

Mrs. Roupe is Executive Director of the National Rehabilitation Association (NRA), Washington, D.C.

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Life in American culture, today, consists of more than a job and activities of daily maintenance. It is also an experience of self-expression and fulfillment through leisure, and these are critical components of the quality of living. The disabled population shares this need and desire for quality of life.

Too often, counseling is limited to vocational and economic concerns, but persons who have altered life situations because of a disability also need counseling in the area of recreation.

Recommendations are: 1) that there be greater enforcement of Public Laws 90-480 and 93-112, 2) that rehabilitation programs include recreational therapy, 3) that there be more research grants for developing new technologies and equipment, 4) that new legislation encourage the private sector to develop recreational activities, and 5) that passage of city ordinances and state laws that require accessibility of all recreational facilities be encouraged.

Q: Has NRA taken a position with respect to the therapeutic benefits of recreation?

A: The NRA believes basically in mainstreaming, and we believe in addressing the problems of handicapped people totally, not just vocational problems, but all problems that keep a handicapped person from pursuing many activities and sources of enjoyment in life. So we very much support the principle of recreational counseling in the provision of vocational rehabilitation.

Q: Does the NRA have a mechanism for informing handicapped people of their rights?

A: The NRA is just commencing on a path of working with handicapped persons in this country to ensure enforcement of the law, and this obviously includes, first of all, an educational process so that the people understand what the laws are and understand the need for enforcement.

Robert G. Stanton

Mr. Stanton is Assistant Director for Park Operations, Washington, D.C. Office of the National Park Service (NPS).

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The most important requirement for the enjoyment of a park experience by handicapped persons is access--access to our parks, our nation's monuments, inspirational sites, and shorelines.

The NPS provides practical guidance for program implementation and sensitizes park and recreation employees to the needs of handicapped persons. This task is facilitated by three publications: Trends, Design, and A Handbook on Interpretation for Handicapped Persons. In addition, the NPS published in 1971 a National Park Guide for the Handicapped, a survey of 243 units of the Federal park system.

Compliance with the laws is a problem. Steps are planned to strengthen NPS compliance by making it a firm requirement that all development plans regardless of origin be submitted for quality control and compliance review by the Denver Service Center. Recently, the Washington office has been designated responsible for compliance with the Architectural Barriers Act.

The opportunities for providing recreational outlets for handicapped persons are unlimited in parks and only require the inspiration, resources, and will of those responsible for these programs.

Q: Does the NPS have any statistics on the number of handicapped individuals using the parks and recreational areas?

A: We do not have any hard statistics on that. There has not been a poll or a formal survey or inventory and, of course, there are certain regulatory requirements that have to be met in terms of approval under the Privacy Act before we can have visitors complete a survey.

Q: When will your new guidebook for handicapped visitors be finished and what kind of assistance has been solicited from consumer groups?

A: We hope that by early spring this revised guide will be available. There has not been a systematic program or procedure established in which we get suggestions from the consumers. Our goal is to provide an opportunity for a good recreational experience for all consumers.

Q: Do you feel the NPS knows how to make facilities accessible or do you need more information?

A: We need to recognize that there are certain kinds of technologies, certain kinds of designs, certain kinds of perceptions that we have not had represented on the part of those people whom we have employed. I would hope if we do not have the necessary expertise within our present staff, we will not hesitate to contract or employ people who can provide that kind of insight.

Q: Do you have any specialists in recreation for handicapped persons employed by the NPS in any significant numbers?

A: As far as I know, we do not have a specific classification of employees whose main job responsibility is in design or in development related to meeting the needs of handicapped persons.

Q: We know that when you, in the conceptual phase, design in accessible features, there is very low excess cost, but do you have any figures on what it costs to take some of the existing facilities and try to make them accessible?

A: Most prominently, the Lincoln Memorial cost in the neighborhood of \$770,000. A similar investment has been made for the Jefferson Memorial, a little bit less. I would suspect if we were to undertake a major revision in, say, modern facilities built in the last ten, twenty, thirty years, the cost would not be in the realm of what we have allotted to the Lincoln Memorial and the Jefferson Memorial.

Julian U. Stein

Dr. Stein is a consultant in Washington, D.C. to the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, and Recreation (AAHPER) on programs for handicapped persons. Formerly, he directed the Association's Project on Recreation and Fitness for the Mentally Retarded.

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When considering recreational needs for handicapped persons, we are faced with attitudinal barriers, inadequate communications, and failure to comply with current legislation. Such problems prevent handicapped persons from involving themselves in recreation in greater numbers. If we use our eyes, we see that nonparticipation is not caused by lack of ability.

The number one problem is attitudinal barriers. A categorical approach to handicapped persons, administrative inflexibility, and misconceptions regarding the values of recreation for handicapped individuals are mostly caused by attitudinal barriers.

Communication is another major problem. Inadequate communication contributes to a proliferation of services, competition among service-providing groups, insufficient resource information, and service duplication. As a result, funds, resources, and manpower are wasted.

Consumer involvement is a crucial area. We need to be sure that the consumer being served has opportunities to contribute at decision and policymaking levels. The consumer has asked and now demands to be involved. Consumer advocacy is very important, and the consumer is the strongest of all advocates. Consumer input is very helpful in generating appropriate programs and is necessary not only in the form of advocacy, but also in the inclusion of handicapped persons in professional positions in the recreation field.

Compliance in accessibility is still another key area. Legislation is there, at all governmental levels. Unfortunately, it has not been enforced and complied with, nor has it been widely applied to recreation.

Affirmative steps should be taken to deal directly with some of these problems. First, transportation is vital so that individuals can get to recreational facilities. The

second problem is accessibility--not special accessibility but basic accessibility as enunciated in the ANSI standards. The third and perhaps the most important is innovative and creative leadership.

To increase opportunities for handicapped children within elementary and secondary educational systems, there is much potential in adapted physical education. If handicapped individuals participate in regular programs when possible and special activities when necessary, then services will be based on need and not on generalizations from categorical conditions.

Specific actions to consider include intensive public informational and educational programs, in-service training of recreation professionals, sensitivity training, and consumer involvement.

Q: Do you have any suggestions for better enforcement?

A: I think enforcement has to be at all levels, Federal, state, and local. Any new facilities need a monitoring system at the planning level so that the plans don't get so far along that they become difficult to change. This type of monitoring has to be organized, systematic, and done on a regular basis.

Q: What is the status of accessibility to recreational facilities on a nationwide basis?

A: Overall there is not the accessibility to park facilities that there should be, but there are model programs available to show others how to proceed.

Q: In general, what is the status of knowledge on how to make facilities accessible?

A: I think, in general, the facilities that are the most functional have very often had a great deal of input from the consumer. One of the things we as professionals have tended to do is to assume a need for overspecialized facilities when we really should ask the consumer.

Q: Do you have any suggestions on how to develop and maintain communications between the providers and the consumers?

A: A budget line item for a recreational information service is needed within the Bureau of Education for the Handicapped in the Division of Media Services. Such a service should be similar to and part of systems like the National Center of Education Media and Materials for the Handicapped at Ohio State University.

A. Heaton Underhill

Dr. Underhill is Assistant Director of the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation (BOR), U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.

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There is much frustration on the part of providers of recreational opportunities for handicapped persons because of lack of technical knowledge. One of the problems is the paucity of consumer feedback into programs. Another problem of particular concern is that of assuring compliance with the requirements of P.L. 90-480. Another major question for the BOR is what constitutes reasonable provisions for handicapped persons? The Bureau has tried to use common sense in assuring that handicapped persons are provided for, but the public's help is needed. Working together, we can develop a sound approach to our common goal--diversity of recreational opportunities for all Americans.

Q: You indicate that it is difficult to obtain practical help on the recreational needs of individuals who are handicapped and disabled. What kind of difficulty are you having?

A: One difficulty we face is the lack of adequate design standards for many recreational facilities being developed with our funding. The answer for many types of facilities that the Bureau funds, is as much common sense as it is laying down strict standards. We are trying to find out what kind of standards we should require for a swimming pool. We don't know how to provide real accessibility for handicapped persons along a rocky creek so that they can go trout fishing, although we can provide opportunities for boat fishing and for other fishing in certain places. Somewhere we need, I think, a balance on how far we should require the recipient of a grant to

go so that everyone has accessibility to that type of area. There has to be a practical solution to what types of participation people with various kinds of handicaps can indulge in, and what types are going to be fairly artificial substitutes.

Q: How do you determine that the needs of handicapped persons have been adequately met by state plans?

A: The BOR reviews statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plans and determines whether states are eligible for funding. If the plans do not address the needs of handicapped persons, the BOR will reject them and send them back for correction in the areas lacking.

Q: Does the state plan requirement formulated by BOR currently require assurances to indicate consumers have been involved in development? And, if it does not, would you support such a provision in the regulations?

A: We have urged and suggested through regulations that there be wide public participation in the formulation of the plan. By an act which Congress passed and President Ford signed near the end of September, the governor must certify that there has been wide public participation in the formulation of the plan.

Q: Does the BOR require certification from the states that they are complying with Public Law 90-480?

A: Yes, we do require that assurance and our compliance is really in the form of spot-checking. When we find that it appears they have not, or they have certified incorrectly, we do take action to assure that it is corrected. But the Bureau sees a relatively small percentage of the total number of funded projects in any one year.

Q: Where does ultimate responsibility in enforcement of this law lie?

A: As far as compliance is concerned the ultimate responsibility for enforcement lies with the Federal Government and with the BOR. I am sure we don't do as adequate a job as should be done.

William K. Wight

Mr. Wight is Director of the Division of Parks and Recreation of the Department of Natural Resources of Jefferson City, Missouri. He submitted the testimony of Mr. Charles H. Odegard, President of the National Society for Park Resources, Olympia, Washington and offered further commentary.

* * *

One specific problem facing all parks is dollars and cents. Additional funds are necessary to remodel old buildings and to construct new ones; this should in no way deter the remodeling. We also must consider the extent to which facilities are to be made accessible (e.g., one comfort station, several, or all).

Another problem is that of attitudinal barriers. Many nonhandicapped persons fear they are not equipped to deal with handicapped people. They must be taught to understand the problems of disabled people.

Q: Surveys conducted by the General Accounting Office, the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, and some other agencies indicate that in new construction, the additional cost is less than one half of one percent, and in existing construction, in other words, renovating existing facilities, no more than three percent!

How much Federal money is ordinarily used in the development of state parks? Is it considerable or is it a small amount?

A: It is a considerable amount of money. The land and water conservation fund has been the greatest avenue during the past few years, and the biggest jump in capital improvement money has come from revenue sharing programs. I do not have figures with me indicating how much, but it is in the area of several million dollars.

Q: So that would mean, then, that the architectural barriers law would

certainly apply to most of the facilities or buildings within the state?

A: Yes. The majority of state facilities would use some amount of federal support.

Q: Does your state have any checkpoints to ensure that the federal architectural laws are complied with?

A: At the present time I do not know of any executive order or any commission within the state that actually calls for compliance or at least is a check to see that this law is complied with. However, I do know that in the recent session of the State Legislature, a bill was passed to make it mandatory that any new facilities be accessible to handicapped persons.

Q: Where, in your opinion, does the responsibility lie to see that the facilities are accessible and what role does the state have in following through on that?

A: I really feel that the states are the ones that should monitor the activities within the state boundaries.

Q: What are some of the experiences that you have had in the state of Missouri with Babler State Park and its use by handicapped people?

A: Babler State Park has a series of buildings designed specifically with handicapped persons in mind and houses approximately sixty handicapped children. All parts of it are hard-surfaced; all doors are wide, and rest rooms and showers are specially designed.

After about eight to ten years, we finally have the camp completed. Part of the problem is that in the interim period many agencies went out and located other camps, so it is a problem now filling the camp with a great number of children. It is very plush and some of the groups would like it a little more rustic feeling.

Most of the groups that deal with handicapped individuals are not prepared to provide their own food services, their own nurses and dietitians, so many services need to be forthcoming which at the current time we are not budgeted for. So there is a problem of providing the services that they need beyond the normal camp counselor and camp aide.



GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK

ANALYSIS OF TESTIMONY

ANALYSIS OF TESTIMONY

This section consolidates the testimony in a framework that offers suggestions for accomplishing desired ends. Six major goal areas are identified, ranked, and presented in common format. In each case, a short background statement of the problem is given, followed by several objectives or ways in which the goal might be approached. It must be remembered that the objectives have different merits, weaknesses, or constraints that must be reviewed independently. Some may appear to overlap, while others may be isolated approaches. In some instances, information is presented suggesting a methodology for accomplishing certain objectives.

GOAL I: Increase Accessibility of Facilities through Compliance with Design and Site Requirements

The most visible barriers are architectural features that exclude participation by persons with physical disabilities. Recent laws and regulations mandate accommodation to the needs of disabled persons, but these are not effectively implemented. Uncoordinated planning efforts, inadequate understanding of needs of disabled persons, inability to interpret regulations and design criteria, and unclear legal definitions of public and private spaces are evident. For example, if a wheelchair user can get into a facility entrance but is excluded by the lack of sidewalk ramps from the parking area to the accessible entrance, that person is effectively frustrated from using that facility.

No other problem was cited so frequently or so extensively by government officials, disabled persons, and their advocates as lack of compliance with accessibility requirements. Immediate resolution was felt to be most important.

1. Develop and Implement Monitoring Systems. Monitoring would be most cost effective if incorporated into the design stage. Inviting input from knowledgeable disabled consumers and professionals to review plans, advise, and discuss development ideas and projects would give useful insights and solutions to accessibility problems.

One suggestion was to fund disabled consumer groups to develop a consumer's monitoring system, including site visits. Another called for implementation of processes intended to foster enforcement of the current laws (e.g., withhold funds from agencies that fail to comply, develop firm policies and administrative orders that indicate that compliance is expected, endorsed, and insisted upon by high government officials).

2. Develop and Implement Assurance Systems. A statement indicating that compliance will be assured could be signed prior to renovation or construction of a facility or site; special occupancy permits might be required. A certificate of accessibility could be awarded or withheld, much as elevator certificates are today. Buildings or sites that did not meet the specifications would not be allowed to open. This strategy might be developed for use in the planning stage, similar to civil rights assurances in employment. Consideration should be given to having the same type of assurance signed by architects and included in construction contracts. Such approaches would offer accountability presently lacking.

3. Develop Incentive Systems. Some examples include use of tax incentives, special grants, design competitions, and legislated funding, such as the funds under the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, to remove architectural barriers to handicapped persons.

4. Establish Compliance Boards. Area compliance boards having knowledgeable disabled consumers as officers and organized to inspect and evaluate sites and facilities. Such boards might focus on reviewing plans and making recommendations as appropriate, and on coordinating and promoting inter-agency efforts and communications in planning.

5. Implement Affirmative Action Programs to Remove Existing Barriers. Utilizing a standard format, assessments could be made at site locations to identify inaccessible features. A remedial action plan, including financial commitments for specific modifications could alleviate some current inequities.

6. Develop Site Inspection Procedures. Developing within agencies a procedure to inspect for conformity with accessibility laws and regulations would ensure design in compliance. This would necessitate the training of state and local inspectors.

7. Educate Specific Populations. Understanding appropriate design and planning to integrate handicapped persons with the general population demands education of specific

populations. Technical barrier-free design education must be provided to the many different professionals who are responsible for designing, building, and maintaining our man-made environment. For example, schools of architecture should be encouraged to include curricular blocks on designing for handicapped persons. A variety of educational approaches can be employed ranging from audiovisual instruction to role-playing experiences. Development of professional in-service training programs, particularly for administrators, would increase understanding of the rights and needs of disabled persons.

8. Provide Information Regarding Available Resources.

This would assist persons interested in providing or using recreational services. Several different approaches might be considered, such as a national clearinghouse established in the Bureau of Education of the Handicapped (or other appropriate agency), similar to or part of the National Media Center. Many witnesses indicated that sufficient knowledge exists on how to design appropriately, but it is not effectively communicated to persons or agencies. It was frequently stressed that places that are currently accessible must be made known to disabled persons who might enjoy them. This information service could use various publications, travel brochures, professional organizations, and agencies that promote tourism. The information service could also serve to educate the public, thus serving a second goal.

GOAL II: Provide Training to General and Specific Populations about Disabled Persons with Respect to Recreation

One of the more difficult problems facing a disabled person is rejection by a "normal" person who does not understand how to handle himself in his company. In many circumstances, that "normal" person is so afraid of doing something wrong that he is apt to turn away altogether. This attitudinal barrier, the lack of understanding and acceptance of someone who is different from ourselves (whether it is a "normal" person accepting the disabled person, vice versa, or one disabled person accepting another), can be difficult to overcome.

An effort to overcome attitudinal barriers would assist in providing quality recreation to disabled people. Specific populations (e.g., administrators and other professionals) do not fully understand what recreation is needed or wanted or how to provide for disabled persons. Disabled persons do not

always appear to know about, much less utilize, existing recreational programs. Thus, communication and training are keys to future programming.

1. Implement a Public Education Program. The mass media should be used to educate the general public about design barriers that restrict the participation of disabled persons in recreational areas. Disabled people are not visible in substantial numbers due to barriers rather than lack of interest.

Myths about high costs associated with designing and planning without barriers must be abandoned. Many appropriate features are not costly and may generate greater utilization by everyone. Barrier-free design adds less than one percent to new construction costs. Renovation and/or adaptation of an existing structure can usually be accomplished with less than three percent of a facility's cost.

2. Provide Training for Recreation Professionals. Through in-service training and recreation curricula, recreation personnel should become sensitized not only to the needs of disabled persons, but also to ways of meeting some of those needs. Some ways to accomplish this are to visit a local rehabilitation clinic or workshop, meet with disabled consumer groups, and learn finger-spelling or sign language. All park planners, architects, and other professionals whose work directly relates to recreation should understand enough to incorporate the needs of disabled persons into their work. Professional personnel who work in rehabilitation programs must help disabled individuals to experience different and varied recreational activities. Practicums or field placements that allow for direct interaction with disabled persons are highly recommended.

Further consideration must be given to new roles reflective of changing professional needs, such as recreation journalists, therapeutic recreation specialists, resource personnel, and special supervisory personnel. For example, very few water safety instructors possess the necessary instructional skills to teach disabled persons. Yet, with proper training, any instructor could acquire the necessary skills.

GOAL III: Integrate Disabled Persons with the General Population in Recreation to the Maximum Feasible Extent

The aim of integration is to enable disabled persons to feel and to be accepted, to allow them the fullest possible opportunity to participate, and to provide the circumstances through which they can realize their potential. These opportunities provide a sense of normal, "real world" living, and an entry into the mainstream of life.

Many agencies, like the Rehabilitation Services Administration, support integration of disabled citizens. Increased opportunities for interaction of disabled and nondisabled persons will help to remove misconceptions and mutual misunderstandings.

Our society is composed of many persons, all of whom are different. Our diverse ages, needs, wants, and capabilities demand that recreational programming be delivered at various levels not only for disabled persons, but also for other individuals as well. Some disabled persons will seek active, rugged sports; others (including many elderly and those more sedentary) enjoy less strenuous exercise. Opportunities that provide for varied capabilities would be best. Realistically, some disabled persons need special care and a segregated program, but the majority neither want nor need "special" facilities. Instead, they want equal treatment and equal opportunities.

1. Offer a Continuum of Recreation Service and Opportunities. If offered various levels of recreational programming, individuals could maximize learning and pleasure from participation. Not all trails through the parks should be "easy" to accomplish. Many blind persons welcome rugged terrain; on the other hand, few wheelchair users, even when given a choice, would opt to push their way straight up the side of a mountain. There is no reason to require them to use the same trail. Many elderly people and small children cannot negotiate long distances without rest. Marking trails by levels of difficulty as is done with ski trails (i.e., easy, intermediate, expert, etc.), and indicating distances at the trail entrance would help travelers to make wise choices.

2. Promote Integration through the Elimination of Design Barriers. Appropriate design for disabled persons need not stand out boldly or necessarily appear highly specialized. Inappropriate design labels disabled persons as "different"

or "special" and makes recreational experience uncomfortable for everyone. By renovation, such as making an existing swimming pool at least minimally accessible instead of waiting to build a new one, greater opportunities will be realized in a short time.

Local school systems should provide adaptive physical education programs. Community recreation departments can provide programs in accessible facilities. Recreational programs should be based on age, interest, skill levels, functional strengths, and other life styles of the individual.

3. Promote through Integration the Elimination of Attitudinal Barriers. By increasing the contact of nonhandicapped and handicapped people, many misconceptions held by nonhandicapped people may be corrected. For example, not only can blind persons enjoy the same gardens as others, but they also do not need or want to use swimming pools separated from non-disabled persons by being compelled to swim at special times. Many disabled persons ski, swim, fish, hunt, bowl, fly planes, etc. much like many others. Even the most severely physically handicapped person enjoys recreation through various social activities like cards and playing or listening to music. Mentally retarded persons especially enjoy recreational activities that provide for exercise and personal involvement with others, as well as for exercise.

4. Remove Discriminatory Policies and Practices. Public agencies discriminate by forcing the minority to perform according to the requirements of the majority. A disabled person must be able to choose for himself whether he wishes or is able to participate. For example, testimony was given about a blind person who travels independently but was told he could not ride the mule train at Grand Canyon National Park unless accompanied by a sighted attendant. This kind of discriminatory policy, tacit or explicit, must be changed. Active disabled persons are most familiar with their own abilities and limitations. To trust their judgment is to accord them the respect and dignity others enjoy.

GOAL IV: Involve Disabled Consumers in the Recreation Processes that Affect Them and the General Public

The real problem related to consumer involvement is usually the lack of it. Few agencies utilize meaningful methods to involve disabled persons in planning, implementing, and evaluating program services. Hence, far too many efforts today

are developed in vacuums. At the same time, the most successful programs by far are those that have active involvement of consumers at the policy and decision making level. What better way to plan programs than to ask those persons who are to receive the services?

The benefits of consumer involvement are diverse. For the disabled consumer, meaningful participation can assist in self-determination, employment, and personal growth. For a service provider, rewards include greater acceptance of new programming, practical and functional solutions to problems, better understanding of consumers and elimination of ineffective or inappropriate programs.

Disabled persons must also become more aware of the benefits resulting from consumer involvement programs and use them as a mechanism to promote change. They must use individual and group clout at all levels to encourage meaningful and appropriate actions and programs.

There are various ways disabled persons can be effective resources in recreation: as program planners, as service providers, as reviewers or evaluators, and as advocates.

1. Affirmative Hiring of Disabled Persons as Recreation Professionals. More consideration must be given to recruiting and upgrading disabled persons in positions at all levels, including leadership. Their expertise should be professionally recognized and utilized; recreation departments should comply with affirmative action requirements for hiring qualified handicapped individuals.

Obstacles to employment of uniquely qualified persons must be removed, particularly the U.S. Civil Service Commission procedures which do not encourage hiring qualified personnel with unusual but needed skills not listed in conventional job descriptions (such as a person having an understanding of persons with disabilities). Policies and practices which militate against hiring qualified disabled individuals should be disallowed.

2. Use Disabled Persons as Consultants. Disabled persons who cope daily with certain difficulties often acquire an expertise in particular areas. Providing roles for them to share this knowledge will augment the development of appropriate plans. Consultation with various disability groups is essential. Each state government should employ a therapeutic recreation consultant for input on programs serving the general public.

3. Seek Feedback from Disabled Consumers. Critical feedback from persons who must live with program failures, as well as successes, is vital to future efforts. As evaluators, they can relate their experiences to program goals and objectives. Various methods could promote feedback. For example, agencies could contact a local consumer organization and ask for its assistance, fund a consumer group to review various programs or plans, meet with individual consumers, establish community recreation councils, hold hearings and conduct business at accessible sites, and invite participation through consumer group newsletters with an evaluation form.

GOAL V: Provide Adequate and Appropriate Transportation to, from, and within Recreation Areas.

Recent research among severely disabled persons indicates that to approximately two-thirds of this population transportation is the single most unavailable and needed service. At the same time, it is a vital link that provides the opportunity for a disabled person to enjoy recreation. The most successful programs understand this linkage and plan appropriately to provide accessible transportation.

Getting to and from recreational sites is only part of the problem. Other limitations are imposed through the use at recreational sites of inaccessible vehicles and/or nonuse of adaptive equipment. Hence, if a disabled person decides to go on an outing with able-bodied friends, he may very well be left behind at some point, or all of them may leave, because no accessible facilities exist. While some forms of transport may be infeasible in a given facility or locale, alternatives may exist, and these should be provided.

1. Review Current Transportation Policies and Guidelines. Policies that are outmoded or not useful should be reviewed. For example, relaxing policies restricting automobiles from national parks by providing day-passes for private vehicles used for or by disabled persons would enable many to enjoy the park system who cannot do so now.

2. Develop Outdoor Recreation Transportation Usable by Everyone. Services which utilize public monies and provide transportation should provide some units that are capable of carrying persons using wheelchairs. This means the use of lifts, ramps, or level-entry vehicles. By these standards, all persons could be accommodated.

Consideration must be given to providing or developing innovative recreational vehicles such as all-terrain vehicles, gondolas that can be utilized by wheelchair users, adaptable boats, electric cars, and other product designs.

3. Integrate Transportation Needs at Sites. Good planning provides for easy access to the site. Proximity of parking and/or accessible transportation to site areas should be stimulated. Easy maneuvering from parking spaces to the facility is a necessity. Senior citizens may also find long distances difficult to negotiate.

4. Link Recreational Programs to Accessible Transportation Services. At the community level it is particularly important to have adequate and appropriate transportation to get people to and from program sites. The most successful programs always consider transportation a top priority in planning. In many cases, transportation is the vital factor in determining whether a service is utilized. For instance, a library recently remodeled to remove architectural barriers was not fully utilized until advertised as accessible and connected to community transportation (i.e., dial-a-ride, senior shuttles, etc.).

GOAL VI: Broaden Opportunities to Enjoy Recreational Resources

Much work remains to provide adequately for disabled persons in outdoor recreation. As some changes are made, more will be demanded. Having the chance to enjoy the natural environment may stimulate additional desire to spend time outdoors.

A particular research concern is to understand the legal interpretation of "facilities" vs. open, outdoor spaces. When such basic questions are resolved, it will be possible to show more accurately that attempts to provide for accessibility are in compliance. As technology increases the independent functioning of a greater number of disabled persons, more people will be able to enjoy the natural environment.

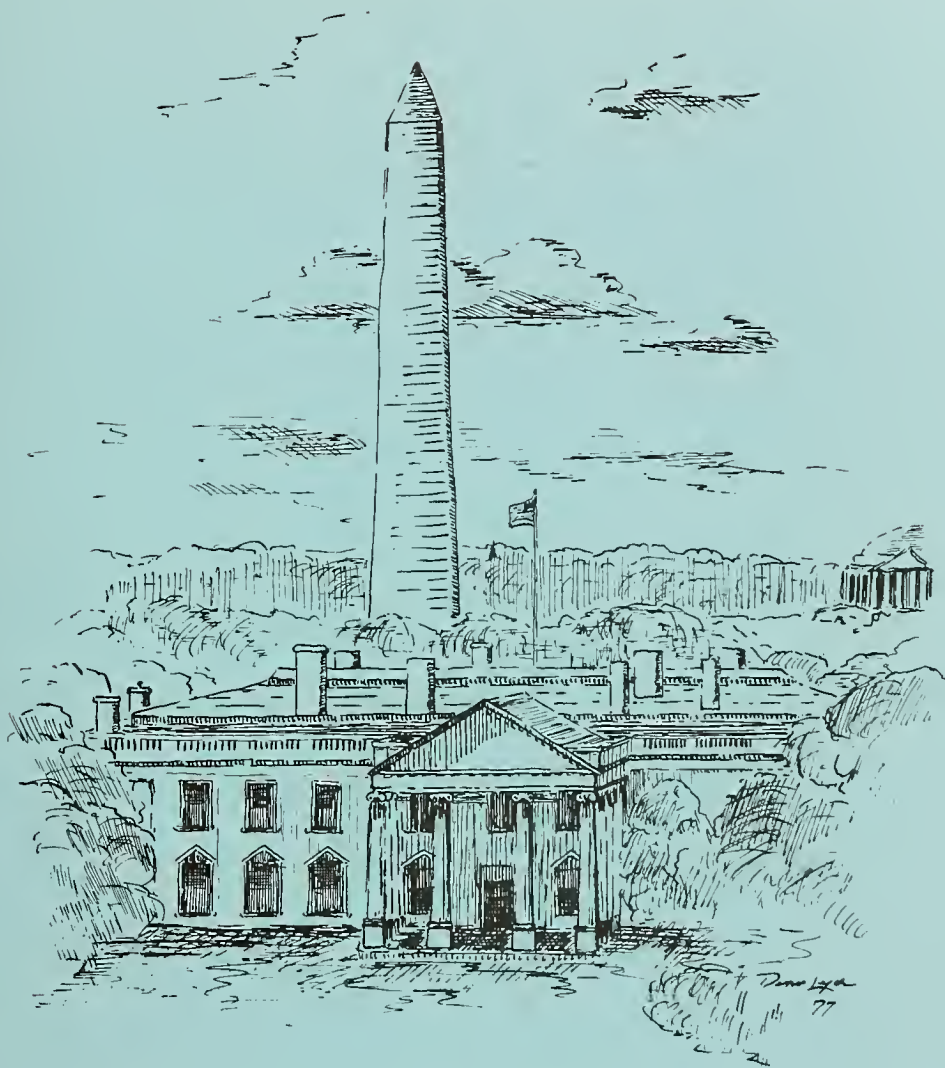
1. Revamp Existing Facilities for Better Use. By reviewing what recreation assets exist, modifications can be incorporated into facilities and programs to be improved for use by disabled persons. For some blind persons, having usable information in Braille (e.g., for menus, nature trail directions, guided tours) may be an important consideration. Use of

recorded messages for driving and walking tours, cassette tapes, and low-powered transmitters provides flexible systems to assist many other individuals. Other suggestions include adapted playground equipment, nature trails, hard surface walkways and bikeways, and publications that offer practical guidance in using the facility.

2. Provide Nature Experiences Appropriate to Different Levels of Capabilities. Where parts of the wilderness are being altered by man, some opportunity for travel by disabled persons should be provided. This means that some areas, but not all, should be negotiable by disabled people with various travel needs (i.e., wheelchairs, crutches, guide dogs, walking canes, etc.). It should be remembered that a host of auditory as well as visual cues can serve to orient disabled persons. For example, an opportunity to hear water rushing under a bridge is important to the blind traveler. At least some campground facilities should be designed to encourage participation by wheelchair users. In addition, picnic tables and other movable equipment, paths to playgrounds, sport fields, and visitor centers, etc. should be accessible and usable by disabled children and adults. Where toilet facilities are provided, they should always be accessible.

3. Research Innovative Materials on Facility Development. Attention should be given to developing new ways for disabled persons to participate with greater ease. For example, all-terrain vehicles may increase mobility for disabled people. Port-a-johns or other temporary toilet facilities, for example, can and should be designed for better use by the entire population. Not only are disabled persons excluded from using these, but many elderly persons fear using them because of the closeness; they are also difficult to maneuver when children need to be accompanied by an adult. Other structures, such as field houses, should also be usable by everyone.

Exploration is needed to consider alternatives in development of the wilderness. For example, rather than paving a path, certain soil-hardening agents might be used for some trails. Guidelines and uniform standards that consider the entire site and suggest appropriate mix of difficulty levels should be developed for use by agencies. Studies should be undertaken as to what disabled persons generally prefer in recreation accessibility. Research should be undertaken to develop and refine easily understood design standards for recreation providers.



WHITE HOUSE, WASHINGTON D. C.

**RECOMMENDATIONS
RESULTING FROM TESTIMONY**

RECOMMENDATIONS

RESULTING FROM TESTIMONY

The following recommendations are based on analysis of the testimony provided in the recreation hearing. They are, in a sense, a consolidation of individual opinions; they reflect what the majority of witnesses presented as key actions for follow-up on the hearing.

Initiate and Implement National Policies that Demand Compliance with Existing Laws

1. The President should direct agencies to implement action programs and policies on Public Laws 90-480 and 93-112 that aggressively support as a high priority the needs of disabled citizens.
2. Incentive funding and priority policies should be developed and implemented to bring existing facilities and transportation systems into compliance with current accessibility laws.
3. Barriers to employment, such as those discouraging the hiring of qualified personnel who understand the needs of disabled persons, should be removed and affirmative action policies upheld.

Develop Appropriate Recreational Resources

1. A national public policy on recreation for disabled children, youth, adults, and elderly should be developed.
2. Recreational program services for disabled persons should receive higher priority and thus a greater portion of available and new funds.
3. An information center on the recreational needs of disabled persons, resources, and research should be established to

communicate information to disabled consumers, recreation professionals, and the general public.

4. Mechanisms that involve disabled individuals and their representatives in meaningful roles in program planning, development, and evaluation should be required.

Stimulate Research in Recreation for Disabled Persons

1. Funds should be awarded to explore the use of outdoor space by disabled persons and to refine design standards.
2. Research grants should be available to develop new technologies, equipment, and programs for use by disabled persons in recreation.
3. Criteria for planning and design should be developed that encompass the quantity and quality of use of recreational space by handicapped persons.

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